

ADDRESS BY STROM THURMOND, CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES
SENATE, AT CAMPAIGN MEETING AT CHESTERFIELD, S. C., JUNE
20, 1950, 11 A. M.

CIO

In my announcement for the United States Senate, I told the people of South Carolina that in this campaign tremendous outside influences would be exerted to dominate this election.

These outside influences are operating in this state to destroy what is the very apparent will of the real Democrats of this state. They are seeking to use the minority bloc votes regimented under outside control which a turn-coat Federal Judge forced into our primary, in order to influence this election.

Our institutions and our traditions are on trial. One of the outside organizations which has come into our state to tear down our way of life and to work against my election and for my opponent is the CIO Political Action Committee.

Several weeks ago, the CIO News, the official organ of the Political Action Committee, declared that their organization would support certain Senators for the Senate in the South, and top on their list were Senator Claude Pepper, of Florida, and my opponent in this race.

In Florida, the CIO Political Action Committee operated openly and brazenly in behalf of Senator Pepper. In this campaign in South Carolina, however, they are operating under cover, having learned in Florida that if they operate out in the open, they hurt instead of help their candidate.

Before the Florida primary, however, the CIO Political Action Committee did not hesitate to come out openly and send men into this state to let the people know that they are backing my opponent. I have in my hand a reprint from an article in the Columbia State ~~Union~~ *Union* reporting that Jack Kroll, National Director of the CIO Political Action Committee was in South Carolina in behalf of my opponent in this campaign. The Columbia Record printed a picture of Mr. Kroll. In a statement to the press, Kroll bragged on my opponent and took occasion to criticize me.

Since my opponent is the undisputed and unqualified candidate of the CIO Political Action Committee, and this organization is in South Carolina seeking to influence this election, I propose to tell the people something about this organization, and how it is spending millions of dollars in order to break down our segregation laws and force into our mills, into our schools and into all public places a mixing of the races.

First of all, I want to call to your attention a United Press dispatch from Washington under a June 16th dateline of this year telling of a one million dollar war chest to help elect their endorsed candidates for Congress, including my opponent in this race. The CIO group, including the same Jack Kroll who has been into this state, and for all I know is operating here now through his agents, after raising their huge slush fund to influence the elections this year marched over to the White House and told the President what they had done. This is the same President my

... of South Carolina to support.

Mr. Truman is reported as telling Mr. Kroll and his group that "you are doing a great political service for your country."

The laboring people of South Carolina know that I have been their friend. No one can cite one act of mine in public life which has been against the interest of labor. Furthermore, during my service in the State Senate and also since I have been Governor I can point to as many accomplishments in behalf of those who work in our mills as any other man in public life. I believe in collective bargaining and the right of labor to organize and I am opposed to taking from them any of the gains they have made during the last two decades.

The CIO-PAC is operating a political organization and not a labor organization. They have repudiated the philosophy of Samuel Gompers against political action by labor as such. They are not interested in the welfare of those who work in our mills in South Carolina. What they are trying to do is tear down our social structure in the South. They want, if they can, to stop the migration of industry from the East to our state. They feel that they can best do this by coming down here and starting trouble by injecting their racial philosophy which is contrary to ours. I want them to know here today that I oppose their racial program for our South Carolina. If my opponent thinks being the endorsed candidate of the PAC in this campaign is a political asset, he is welcome to that label.

The CIO-PAC is sponsoring a racial program which we in South Carolina cannot and will not accept. It is the Truman program to break down our

segregation laws and bring about a mixing of the races which is repugnant to everything we stand for in South Carolina.

I want you to bear with me today while I tell you something of this CIO-PAC Program.

Let me read to you the resolution adopted by the CIO at their convention held Nov. 4, 1949 as printed in the Congressional Record by that arch-enemy of the South, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey.

"The CIO unreservedly supports President Truman's civil rights program," the Convention resolution declared.

This was nothing startling in 1949, because we knew it was the CIO national organization, along with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which caused the President of the United States to stab the South in the back and submit to Congress in 1948 his civil rights program.

But not until 1949, after the election of Truman, did we know the extent to which the CIO would go in their drive to abolish all segregation.

I quote from the CIO Platform as adopted at the 1949 convention.

"We firmly oppose segregation based upon race wherever it exists, and pledge our efforts toward the elimination of segregation."

"We demand", said the 1949 CIO convention:

"1. The passage of Federal and State Fair Employment Practice Acts.

"2. The enactment of a Federal antilynching bill.

"3. The passage of Federal and State legislation outlawing poll taxes and other restrictions on the right to vote.

"4. The abolition of segregation in the armed forces.

"5. The passage of measures to ban segregation in interstate travel.

"6. The enactment of safeguards against racial discrimination in Federal appropriations for State aid."

In carrying out this program, I want to read you some of the propaganda the CIO is circulating in South Carolina and the South.

I read from a pamphlet of the CIO-PAC Committee to abolish racial discrimination and we should keep in mind that separation and racial discrimination are the same in the eyes of the CIO.

Separation is discrimination, according to the CIO, and "it must be thoroughly understood that the union will countenance no discrimination in the employment of workers because of race, creed or national origin."

I quote further from the CIO pamphlet.

"Locker rooms, shower, toilet facilities, cafeterias, and lunchrooms are often segregated because of the fear that some workers may not want to share their use with others.

"There is no justification for a policy of segregation in the use of facilities.

"Where management or any group of workers request segregation in any form, it should be vigorously opposed by the union because it recognizes differences between workers contrary to the fundamental concepts of the labor movement."

Furthermore, we find this doctrine being promoted in the CIO propaganda drive in South Carolina.

"White women workers often object to the employment of Negro women.

"When union leadership accepts responsibility for developing proper relations and conduct where women workers are concerned, there need be no fear of serious difficulties.

"Strongest objections to mixing the sexes are raised over the issue that Negro men will molest white women workers. This has long been the fallacious argument used in the South to justify segregation, lynching, and other practices of exclusion of Negroes.

"It should be noted that Negro men object to white man-Negro woman relationships just as white men resent Negro man-white woman relationships.

In other words, what the CIO people are telling the white people in our mills of South Carolina is that there is no difference between Negro women working under a white man and white women working under a Negro man.

I say to you in all seriousness, ladies and gentlemen, the people of South Carolina are not going to stand for that kind of doctrine.

Another CIO pamphlet is called "CIO Wants FEPC" and calls on the CIO unions to pass resolutions urging the passage of the FEPC bill.

Not only is the CIO Political Action Committee bombarding the South with propaganda in behalf of the Truman civil rights program, but its legal staff has gone into the courts seeking to abolish segregation.

You will recall the recent Supremen Court decisions ordering Negroes to be served with the white people in our railroad dining cars and the admission of Negroes into the white southern colleges.

The CIO, through its general counsel, Arthur J. Goldberg, filed a brief in the Supreme Court in behalf of the cases which were brought to

that high tribunal by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In other words, the CIO-Pac and the NAACP are working hand in hand in this drive to end segregation in the South, and they are seeking to dominate this election in South Carolina this year in behalf of my opponent by voting these minority blocs for him.

If these groups should dominate this Senatorial election, I tell you we would not have the kind of South Carolina you and I want to live in.

The issue in the segregation cases in the Supreme Court, Mr. Goldberg said, can be confused only by the use of the "false assumption" of Negro inferiority and the belief that no white person ever wants to associate with Negroes.

"The assumption is false," the CIO Lawyer said.

"The CIO is living proof that it is false.

"The court should hold that such compulsory segregation is per se unconstitutional because it deprives both whites and Negroes of freedom of choice, and nothing else."

President Phil Murray, of the CIO, hailed the decisions of the Supreme Court striking at segregation in the South as a victory for the CIO.

Although the Supreme Court has not invalidated our state laws on segregation, the CIO has ordered its organizers and officials in the South to disobey our state laws prohibiting mixing of the races.

I read from a May 15, 1950 Associated Press dispatch from Washington:

"The CIO today banned all Negro-white segregation in the South or elsewhere on properties owned or leased by the union.

The order applies to offices, drinking fountains, washrooms, meeting places and other facilities.

"In issuing the directive, CIO General Counsel Arthur J. Goldberg challenged any state or local 'statute or ordinance' which would require the CIO to practice segregation.

"In some areas, local statutes have been used as a threat against CIO affiliated councils which have endeavored to wipe out forms of segregation. Goldberg said any statute or ordinance which requires CIO organizations or bodies to practice segregation in any form are void because they violate the Constitution of the United States."

Ladies and gentlemen, that is the doctrine and the policy of the CIO Political Action Committee which has endorsed my opponent in this race and sent its emissaries into South Carolina to help elect him.

I repudiate any such doctrine and I want to say here and now that the CIO-PAC will never get anywhere in South Carolina in promoting this Truman program to tear down our segregation laws and bring about the mixing of the races in our mills, in our schools, in our hotels, restaurants and other places.

What I want to know is why is this CIO national organization so anxious to get my opponent back to Washington?

I ask my opponent here and now- "Why are you accepting the support of this national CIO organization which you know is promoting the program I have outlined to break down our segregation laws?"

My opponent professes to be a friend of those who work in the mills in

our state, yet he is lined up with an organization which is promoting a program he knows full well is contrary to their best interests and will cost thousands of white workers their jobs, where they are supplemented with Negroes if the Truman-backed CIO program prevails.

My opponent is the CIO candidate in this race, and when he accepts this organization's support he either accepts its program or he is sailing under false colors.

I call on him to say which side he is on. Does he stand with the CIO-PAC and its program to tear down segregation- or is he accepting the CIO support under false pretenses?

My opponent may think he can play around in Washington with the Truman-CIO crowd and then come back down here and pose as a great States' Rights Democrat, but he is not going to get by with it.

My opponent deserted the Democratic Party of South Carolina to join with the CIO and National Association for the Advancement of Colored people in supporting Truman in 1948, and the people of South Carolina are not going to forget this double-cross. The CIO is trying to put over his program in South Carolina, and the same people who are working to put it over are the same people who are supporting the election of my opponent and opposing me in this campaign.

Now I promise you here today that when I am your United States Senator no CIO-PAC anti-segregation committee is going to put a ring in my nose and lead me around in Washington and make me vote for legislation which I know is contrary to the best interests of the people of South Carolina.

When I am elected to the Senate, I will be under no obligations to this CIO-PAC-NAACP group, and I will be a free agent to serve all the people of South Carolina and that I shall propose to do.